

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appellants: Kjell Kristoffersen, et al. :
Serial No.: 10/719,431 : Art Unit: 3737
Filed: November 21, 2003 : Examiner: Mehta, Parikha Solanki
For: ULTRASOUND PROBE :
TRANSCEIVER CIRCUITRY AND :
METHOD FOR DECOUPLING A :
RECEIVE SECTION AND :
TRANSMIT SECTION :

REPLY BRIEF

Mail Stop: APPEAL BRIEF - PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

This Reply Brief is in response to the Examiner's Answer mailed March 11, 2010. This Reply Brief is timely because the Reply Brief is being filed on May 11, 2010.

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This Reply Brief contains the following sections under the headings and in the order set forth below.

- I. Status of Claims
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I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application that is the subject of this Appeal. Claims 1-27 stand rejected and are on appeal.

II. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 1-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,050,945), hereafter Peterson, in view of Moore et al. (U.S. Patent 6,511,432), hereafter Moore.

III. ARGUMENT

Appellants submit this Reply Brief in response to the Examiner's Answer to address the Response to Argument regarding claims 1 and 21.

A. Independent Claims 1 and 21 - Rejected under §103 As Unpatentable Over Peterson and Moore

The Examiner states that the term “blocking circuitry” as recited in the claims “was not so redefined to the extent that it must be interpreted in any scope narrower than its broadest reasonable interpretation according to what is known in the art.” (Examiner’s Answer, pg. 5). Thus, the Examiner concludes that any element that prevents or limits some signal from passing therein can be reasonably interpreted to constitute “blocking circuitry.” Appellants are not attempting to redefine a term of a claim as an uncommon definition as set forth by the Examiner. Appellants are merely asserting that the structure in Peterson cited by the Examiner includes components that are not connected nor arranged in a way that teach or encompass the claimed *blocking circuitry*. Appellants also submit that the term “circuitry” does not necessarily encompass particular elements with particular circuit elements. The cited diodes of Peterson are not blocking circuitry as recited in the claims and discussed in more detail below.

The application as filed, as discussed in more detail in Appellants’ Brief, describes blocking circuitry as circuitry for protecting the probe electronics, which includes blocking electrical current flow. The claimed invention requires receive blocking circuitry coupled between the transmit section input and output and transmit signal blocking circuitry coupled between the receive section input and output. Circuit components may be connected and configured to operate in different manners and define different circuitry. As Appellants pointed

out in Appellants' Brief, the blocking circuit components in Peterson are not provided both between the transmit section input and output and the receive section input and output as required by the claims. The components provided therebetween in Peterson are not blocking circuitry. The manner in which components are connected and the manner in which the components operate define the circuit. The cited components in Peterson between the transmit section input and output and the receive section input and output are noise correction circuitry (as taught in Peterson) and not signal blocking circuitry.

Appellants further point out that the components between the transmit section input and output and the receive section input and output in Peterson are described as impedances, which may be a diode bridge or bipolar transistors. Thus, Peterson is not describing blocking circuits, but different impedance components that may be configured as noise correction circuitry. Nothing in Peterson describes these impedance components as blocking circuitry or components that operate to block current flow. As discussed in more detail in Appellants' Brief, the blocking components are separately provided and are not provided between the transmit section input and output and the receive section input and output. Thus, the cited diodes are not blocking circuitry nor is there any description in Peterson as to using the diodes between the transmit section input and output and the receive section input and output as blocking circuitry because other components define the blocking circuitry. For example, the described example of a diode bridge is used to define a forward or reverse path through the circuit and not to block the flow of current between an input and an output as required by the claims. Thus, there would be no reason to include blocking circuitry between the transmit section input and output and the receive section input and output as required by the claims as asserted by the Examiner.

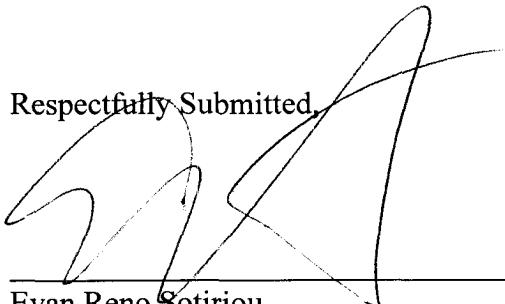
Moreover, with respect to the teaching in Moore of a blocking capacitor, Appellants

submit that there is no motivation to modify Peterson based on Moore absent the disclosure of the present application. Peterson describes using a layered transformed arrangement to minimize capacitive coupling (see, e.g., Peterson, col. 14, line 29 to col. 15, line 8) to provide blocking. Thus, there is no reason to add a blocking capacitor absent the disclosure of the present application. Accordingly, Appellants submit that the combination is improper hindsight reconstruction.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Appellants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson in view of Moore should be withdrawn.

In view of the above and the previously submitted Appellants' Brief, Appellants respectfully request that the rejection of all pending claims be withdrawn and the pending claims allowed.

Date: May 11, 2010

Respectfully Submitted,

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